DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Monday, January 26, 2026

KARACHI

Sunset	06:12pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	07:15am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	11°C
Maximum	23°C
Humidity	27%
Outlook	Partly Cloudy

Yamal nets stunner as Barca beat Oviedo to reclaim top spot

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(CLOCKWISE from top left): The dark blue hundred-year-old Austin Seven Chummy steals the show due to its advanced years from its neighbour, a maroon 1954 MG; the other centenary car, a 1926 Chevrolet Superior; a 1968 Jaguar E-Type Series 1.5 is standing beside a 1982 silver beige metallic collector's edition of the Chevrolet Corvette along with others; and, lastly, classic Fiat models of various shapes and sizes are showcased at the event.—Shakil Adil / White Star

A display of passion for antique cars

Despite biting cold, automobile show at Frere Hall pulls crowds

By Shazia Hasan

KARACHI: Majesty and history held away at the Frere Hall lawns on Sunday as the day-long 4th Annual Antique Cars Show 2026, organised by the Antique Cars Museum, brought out people from all walks of life in huge numbers to appreciate the delightful display of automotive heritage and craftsmanship despite the biting cold.

It was a free public event where the stars of the show among the 110 antique cars were the two which turned 100 this year — Razi Nayyar's 1926 Chevrolet Superior and Faraz Latif's 1926 Austin Seven Chummy.

And if there was an even bigger presence there than the birthday cars, it had to be the 102 years old 1924 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost of the Nawab of Bahawalpur that was used by Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Lord Mountbatten on August 14, 1947 to go to Governor House for the signing of the Independence Declaration. Proudly owned now by the lover of classic cars Karim Chhapra, it is featured in just about every antique, classic or vintage car show that takes place here. Also on display were very rare cars such as the 1941 Cadillac Sedanette Coupe, owned by the Founder Antique Cars Museum Shoaib Qureshy. The only other such car was owned by the Quaid-i-Azam, his first car as the Governor General of Pakistan, the 1947 Cadillac Limousine that is on public display at his Karachi mausoleum. Qureshy had entered some seven of his cars in the show. The others being a 1956 Austin

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Fire safety audit of over 2,300 buildings across Sindh ordered

• Govt identifies 562 buildings in Karachi, 898 in Sukkur, 540 in Hyderabad, 171 in Shaheed Benazirabad, 143 in Larkana and 54 in Mirpurkhas divisions • CM Murad asks authorities to resume annual safety inspection of commercial buildings • Says basement reserved for parking can't be used for other purposes

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has ordered a province-wide fire safety audit of all major government, private and commercial buildings.

A decision to this effect was taken at a high-level meeting held at the CM House on Sunday. It aims to institutionalise safety protocols and protect life and property of the people in an efficient manner, said a press statement issued after the meeting.

The meeting was informed that the government had identified a total of 2,368 buildings across the province for the initial audit phase.

According to data presented in the meeting, Karachi has 562 buildings identified for the fire safety audit, Sukkur has 898 buildings, Hyderabad 540, Shaheed Benazirabad 171, Larkana 143, and Mirpurkhas had 54 buildings.

The CM approved the implementation plan with a phased timeline for compliance.

During the meeting, the chief minister stressed that a thorough audit of all key buildings is no longer optional. He said all commercial, private and government buildings must be equipped with modern fire prevention systems.

Clearly marked emergency exits and unobstructed entry and exit routes are mandatory in every facility, the CM said.

He added that the objective is to strengthen emergency preparedness at both district and taluka levels to handle unforeseen incidents effectively.

As part of the safety audit, inspection of fire alarm panels, portable extinguishers and emergency signage will be carried out as immediate measures.

In the short term, installation and operationalisation of smoke detectors, central alarm systems and hydrants will be ensured.

The long-term plan involves the complete rectification of electrical wiring and the installation of automatic fire suppression systems.

CM Shah directed the chief secretary (CS) to ensure teams of the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) and Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) meet with the management of important buildings and give them a specific time frame to implement immediate-, short-, medium- and long-term fire safety measures.

He warned that in case of non-compliance, action will be taken accordingly.

The chief minister also decided that basements and mezzanines approved for car parking will be strictly used only for that purpose, and not for other uses such as shops, cabinets or warehouses.

He also approved the resumption of the annual safety inspection of commercial buildings, which was discontinued years ago.

"Electrical and other inspections, including emergency exit and entry points will be ensured through inspections," he said.

The chief minister directed the SBCA and PDMA to issue strict notices to non-compliant buildings, warning that safety standards must be met without compromise.

The meeting was attended by provincial ministers Sharjeel Inam Memon and Nasir Hussain Shah, Adviser Gian Chand Israni, Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, representatives of district administration, police, fire department, SBCA, PDMA and others.

Man killed in celebratory aerial firing

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A man was killed and another injured in aerial firing during a wedding ceremony in the Quaidabad area in the small hours of Sunday morning, police said.

They said that an armed guest resorted to firing in jubilation during the wedding ceremony of his friend in Old Muzaffarabad. However, bullets hit two persons and one of them, identified as Umer Gul, died.

The suspect, Shahzeb, managed to escape from the spot. However, the police traced and arrested him in a raid and recovered the weapon used in the incident.

The police said the suspect was booked in a case under Section 302 (premeditated murder), 324 (attempted murder) of the Pakistan Penal Code and under the Sindh Arms Act.

Sindh extends revised school timings as cold wave persists

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI: A cold wave continued to grip the metropolis on Sunday as temperatures remained significantly lower, prompting the Sindh government to extend the revised school opening timings across the province until Feb 4.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), the minimum temperature in the city fell to 8.5 degrees Celsius, while in the daytime it rose to 21.8 °C on Sunday.

The daily advisory issued by the department said that cold winds were blowing from the northeast at a speed of 15 kilometres per hour, further adding to the chill felt across the city.

According to the PMD's forecast, a western weather system is expected to impact the northern parts of the country on Monday (today) and, under its influence, districts including Sukkur, Qambar Shahdadkot, Shikarpur, Jacobabad and Dadu may experience heavy winds accompanied by thunderstorms and rain.

Elsewhere in Sindh, the weather is likely to remain cold and dry.

The Met Office forecast that the current weather conditions are expected to stay dry, with cold nights and occasional strong winds likely to prevail over the next few days.

The continued spell of cold weather has disrupted daily routines, particularly for school-going children.

Consequently, the Sindh government has decided to extend the adjusted school timings to protect students from early morning cold exposure.

The Sindh School Education Department, in a statement, announced the decision to delay school opening hours due to the ongoing cold weather across the province.

According to an official notification, all public and private schools in Sindh will continue to start classes at 9am until Feb 4.

The decision has been taken in view of the prevailing cold conditions to ensure the health and safety of students, it said.

The spokesperson for the education department said the revised timings would be implemented uniformly across government and private educational institutions.

Earlier, the department had announced the change in school timings till Jan 26 as a temporary measure during the cold spell, which has persisted in several parts of the province.

Man found dead in DHA apartment

KARACHI: The decomposed body of a man was found inside his apartment in Defence Housing Authority late on Saturday night, police said on Sunday.

The Darakhshan police said that the body was found in a Florida Homes flat in Phase V. The Crime Scene Unit was called to the spot to collect evidence. Later, the body was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical centre, where doctors reserved the cause of death after a post-mortem examination.

They said the decomposed body had lain in the apartment for the past 15 to 20 days. According to a police officer, there were no apparent injury marks on the body.

Later, the deceased was identified as 53-year-old Adnan Ameer Baig, who had been residing alone and was unemployed. —Staff Reporter

'I just want the body of my child'

After nine days, families of missing persons wait outside Gul Plaza for closure; death toll climbs to 73; six laid to rest

By Imtiaz Ali

KARACHI: As the number of deaths in the tragic Gul Plaza fire reached 73 and the search operation continued for the ninth day, families of many missing persons have been waiting outside the gutted building for closure, as they know there are slim chances that their loved ones were alive.

"I am coming daily to Gul Plaza but am being pushed back. I don't want anything, I just want the body of my child," said the mother of missing Imran Ibrahim.

A resident of Lyari, told the media her son had been working at a crockery shop for the last three years. He had talked with her at around 10pm on Jan 17, saying that he was doing overtime and would come back home at 2am.

The mother said all family members were asleep, assuming that her son might have returned, but in the morning, they came to know that a huge fire had erupted at Gul Plaza.

She said when she visits Civil Hospital Karachi, she is told to go home, and that they would call her. When she comes to Gul Plaza, no one informs her anything about her son.

She added that the shop owner, Sarfaraz, where her son worked, was also among the missing persons.

The father of another missing man told the media that he, along with other family members, had been visiting the plaza for the last nine days but no one responded to their plight. He wondered what the government was doing.

He recalled that his son, Hafiz Arif who was father of two children including an infant son, had made a last call to him and his mother, saying, "Please Abu, Ami [father, mother] save my life as I cannot understand anything."

The father said they asked their son to recite the *kalma*. "We would leave the place if any sign of our son was given, even his remains," said the grieving father, a resident of Godhra Colony in New Karachi.

Funeral prayers

Funeral prayers of six victims, including four of a family, were held in Karachi and Sukkur.

In Delhi Colony, a large number of people attended the funeral prayers of four family members — Saad, Kausar, Mariam and Misbah — at the Eidgah ground.

An Edhi Foundation spokesperson said that a total of six members of the family had gone shopping for a wedding ceremony when the tragedy struck them. Two of them were yet to be identified.

The funeral prayer of Mohammed Shees was held at Kashti Chowk in Garden.

In Sukkur, a number of people including Sukkur Mayor Barrister Arsalam Islam Sheikh attended the funeral of Mohammad Athar, father of four, who lost his life in the incident.

The mayor announced that a special fund has been established to support the bereaved family, providing them with financial assistance.

'Search operation in final phase'

The number of deaths in the tragic Gul Plaza fire reached 73 as remains of two more victims were recovered from the debris during the search and rescue operation, officials said.

Rescue-1122 Chief Operating Officer (COO) Dr Abid Jalal Shaikh told *Dawn* that the search operation was in the final phase and would likely be completed soon.

He said that only five per cent of the basement area remained for searching, which was under debris.

He said that the operation was halted for a while as the district administration had arranged a visit for forensic experts.

They visited the spot and collected samples, and after that, the operation was resumed.

The COO said that the district administration had so far recorded 73 casualties, while the total number of missing persons stood at 81.

Police surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed told *Dawn* that out of 73 deceased, 23 have been identified.

PEOPLE offer funeral prayers for four of the Gul Plaza fire victims. —Shakil Adil / White Star